

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled):

Claim 21 (New): A schedule retrieval method, performed in a server apparatus coupled to terminal apparatuses allocated to schedule-reserving persons and schedule-reserved persons through a communication line, for retrieving idle time of a schedule, comprising the steps of:

transmitting data to said terminal apparatus and receiving data from said terminal apparatuses;

dividing each of schedules registered for a plurality of persons and a plurality of equipments into a plurality of groups; and

retrieving common idle time from one of said plurality of groups to make an idle-time retrieval result be a following retrieval condition for retrieving idle time from the schedule of another one of said plurality of groups.

Claim 22 (New): A schedule retrieval method according to claim 21, wherein a degree of significance is provided to participants respectively so that schedules of said participants are grouped in the order of said degree of significance to thereby output idle time correspondingly to said degree of significance.

Claim 23 (New): A schedule retrieval method according to claim 21, further comprising the step for making registration for a special group, wherein said idle time is retrieved so that at least one of participants and equipments in said special group satisfies a condition.

Claim 24 (New): A schedule retrieval method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of providing a visual display of said idle-time retrieval result at selected ones of said terminal apparatuses.

Claim 25 (New): A schedule retrieval method according to claim 24, further comprising the steps for making registration for a special group, wherein said idle time is retrieved so that at least one of participants and equipments in said special group satisfies said retrieval condition.

Claim 26 (New): A schedule retrieval method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of preparing a plurality of databases which store schedules of subjects of participation and a host person, and schedules of equipments.

Claim 27 (New): A schedule retrieval method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of accessing selected ones of said plurality of databases in accordance with the retrieval condition made in the common idle time retrieving step.

Claim 28 (New): A scheduling management method, in a system having a schedule server and a plurality of remote client devices, comprising the steps of:

storing, at the schedule server, schedules of participants and schedules of equipments reserved by ones of said participants in databases, dividing schedules registered for participants and equipments into a plurality of groups, and retrieving an idle time common from one group as a retrieval condition for retrieving an idle time common for another group of said plurality of groups; and

allowing, at the plurality of remote client devices, client users to input schedules of said participants and requesting an idle time retrieval from the schedule server.

Claim 29 (New): A schedule management method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of providing a visual display of said idle time retrieval at selected ones of the remote client devices by the schedule server.

Claim 30 (New): A schedule management method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of providing registration for a special group by the schedule server, wherein said idle time is retrieved so that at least one of participants and equipments in said special group satisfies the retrieval condition.

Claim 31New): A schedule management method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of accessing selected ones of said databases in accordance with the retrieval condition made in the common idle time retrieving step

for retrieving the idle time common from said plurality of groups by the schedule server.

Claim 32 (New): A schedule management system according to claim 28, wherein a degree of significance is provided to said participants respectively so that schedules of said participants are grouped in the order of said degree of significance to thereby produce the idle time corresponding to said degree of significance.

Claim 33 (New): A computer readable medium comprising instructions that, when executed by a server apparatus coupled to terminal apparatuses allocated to schedule-reserving persons and schedule-reserved persons through a communication line, perform the method comprising:

- transmitting data to said terminal apparatus and receiving data from said terminal apparatuses;
- dividing each of schedules registered for a plurality of persons and a plurality of equipments into a plurality of groups; and
- retrieving common idle time from one of said plurality of groups to make an idle-time retrieval result as a following retrieval condition for retrieving idle time from the schedule of another one of said plurality of groups.

Claim 34 (New): A computer readable medium according to claim 33, wherein a degree of significance is provided to participants respectively so that

schedules of said participants are grouped in the order of said degree of significance to thereby output idle time correspondingly to said degree of significance.

Claim 35 (New): A computer readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the method comprises making registration for a special group, in which said idle time is retrieved so that at least one of participants and equipments in said special group satisfies a condition.

Claim 36 (New): A computer readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the method comprises providing a visual display of said idle-time retrieval result at selected ones of said terminal apparatuses.

Claim 37 (New): A computer readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the method comprises making registration for a special group, in which said idle time is retrieved so that at least one of participants and equipments in said special group satisfies said retrieval condition.

Claim 38 (New): A computer readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the method comprises preparing a plurality of databases which store schedules of subjects of participation and a host person, and schedules of equipments.

Claim 39 (New): A computer readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the method comprises accessing selected ones of said plurality of

databases in accordance with the retrieval condition made in the common idle time
retrieved.